



## **OPENING OF NEW MAGISTRATES COURTHOUSE, BRISBANE**

**Tuesday 16 November 2004, 10am**

---

### **Chief Justice, Paul de Jersey AC**

Premier, Ministers, Your Honours, Magistrates, distinguished guests, I have the privilege of acknowledging with gratitude those who have participated in this morning's ceremony.

I first of all thank Aunty Ella Gordon and the Brisbane Council of Elders for the traditional indigenous welcome, and the smoking ceremony: that reflection of ancient enduring values was especially appropriate as we celebrate this morning the long-standing stability of the system of law which binds all citizens.

Mr Premier, your presence greatly distinguishes the occasion, and we are fortunate you are able to be present – in light of other extremely tragic events. I am gratified you take the trouble to acknowledge in this way the judicial arm of government. Thank you for what you have said. May I add my congratulations to the government for its initiative in establishing such a fine edifice for the administration of justice, by what are our busiest State courts. This is a courthouse of which the people will be justly proud: for its architectural and artistic elegance, for its technologically advanced utility, and for its compelling symbolism of the high significance of this arm of government.

You would, Mr Premier, be at least a little surprised were I not to add, that I have spied some fine, apparently uncommitted government-owned land close by, about 6,000 square metres of it I am told, which may prove an ideal site for new houses for the other courts within your domain...But I must not



**OPENING OF NEW MAGISTRATES COURTHOUSE, BRISBANE**  
Tuesday 16 November 2004, 10am

---

appear importunate – today is not my day, but the day of the Chief Magistrate, although I am sure you will do your best to meet that other urgent need as soon as possible!

What I must also gratefully acknowledge, Mr Premier, is your commitment and that of your Ministers to the independence of the judiciary and the separation of powers, stipulations integral to the good government of the people of the State. I welcome your affirmation of the desirable preservation of the unfettered judicial discretion as to sentencing: 33 years legal experience, including almost 20 on the bench, compel me to share that view.

Mr Attorney, thank you for your remarks, and your dedication to promoting the mission of the courts. Thank you also for your contributions, with the Minister for Works, in bringing the project to a successful completion. Now this is done, I look forward to working with you on “stage 2”.

Chief Magistrate, I respectfully commend the accomplishment you have already brought to the discharge of your important, and sometimes difficult, role, and I reaffirm my continuing support for the Magistracy, their work central to public confidence in the performance of the courts of law.

Ladies and gentlemen, my primary message this morning is one of warm congratulations to the government for having established a superb courthouse, of which the people of Queensland may be justly proud.

Would you join me, please, in applauding our speakers, all who have made this possible, and all who have ensured a memorable public occasion this morning...and this afternoon!